

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 732

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Emmett Noel Kennon of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Emmett Noel Kennon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennon was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifetime resident of Nashville, Emmett Noel Kennon was born on May 12, 1915 to his loving and devoted parents, Catherine and Emmett N. Kennon, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Central High School, Mr. Kennon earned his undergraduate degree in 1938 from Tennessee State Teachers College (now MTSU), where he wrote for the school newspaper lettered in both football and baseball; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Kennon served with acumen and alacrity as an employee of Neuhoff Packing Company in Nashville and Chattanooga, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a member of the greatest generation, Emmett Noel Kennon nobly served his country in the United States Army during World War II in numerous capacities, including managing field hospitals in North Africa and Italy; by the end of his final tour of duty, Mr. Kennon had risen to the rank of major, and he later dedicated himself to serving his fellow veterans as the Assistant Chief of Education and Training for Tennessee in the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennon was a renowned farmer and committed businessman, maintaining farms in Marshall and Williamson counties and founding in 1949 the highly successful Kennon Construction, which continued in operation until his death; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Noel Kennon was a dedicated civic leader who distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his involvement with numerous organizations and boards, including as a member of the Cattleman's Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Nashville Chamber of Commerce, Marshall County Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Businessmen, Richland Country Club, Doric Lodge 732, and Al Menah Shrine Temple; he was also a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and served as a member and president of the Melrose Civitan Club and a board member of Peoples and Union Bank; and

WHEREAS, with undying allegiance to his alma mater, Mr. Kennon generously donated funds for the construction of the MTSU Sports Hall of Fame building and served as a member and president of the MTSU Varsity Club; no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Kennon was honored as a member of the Blue Raider Athletic Hall of Fame and recognized as a Distinguished Alumni in 2002 by the MTSU Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennon was an active and devout member of the Brentwood Baptist Church, where he faithfully served his Lord for many years; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Noel Kennon was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennon was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Catherine and Emmett Noel Kennon, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennon is survived by his loving wife, Rose S. Kennon; his son and daughter-in-law, James E., Sr. and Alice Kennon; his grandson and his wife, James E., Jr. and Katherine Kennon; his great-grandsons, Drakeford B. Kennon and Noel J. Kennon; his brother and sister-in-law, James C. and Mildred Kennon; his nieces and nephews and their spouses, Carol and David Wood, Mildred and Bill Rogers, and Carl and Jill Kennon; and two great-nieces, five great-nephews, and a host of friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Noel Kennon leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Emmett Noel Kennon, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Kennon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.